

University of New Hampshire CNG Efforts

GSCCC has taken a major step forward with the acquisition of a \$1 million earmark from the Federal Transit Administration for GSCCC and the University of New Hampshire for a compressed natural gas (CNG) bus project. Former U.S. Senator Bob Smith (R-NH) made this request on behalf of GSCCC and UNH. UNH is planning to use this money to offset the cost of CNG transit buses, a refueling facility, and an upgrade to their maintenance facility to allow work on CNG vehicles. This money will allow growth in the alternative fuel market to continue in the Seacoast area and we hope to see Seacoast area stakeholders take advantage of this refueling infrastructure.

CNG Fueling Station Update:

UNH has satisfactorily completed FTA grantee submittal requirements.

UNH has received pre-award authority for the first \$100,000 of the initial discretionary grant. UNH staff will meet to discuss plans to revise the previously issued design/build Request For Qualifications to conform to the requirements that the \$100,000 be spent on engineering and analysis only. UNH is in the process of selecting a design team.

UNH is moving forward simultaneously on fleet procurement issues. This will pertain to both transit and non-transit. The grant funding provides for the incremental costs of CNG vehicles over their diesel and gasoline powered counterparts.

UNH is waiting for resolution from NHDOT on whether the non-transit (CMAQ) project will be administered by FTA or FHWA. This will affect how they proceed.

VAN Purchase (CMAQ)

UNH has received the Memorandum Of Understanding for project management regarding the purchase of 6 fifteen-passenger vans to be used for remote parking and van access routes to UNH. They intend to purchase these as dedicated CNG fueled vehicles. They understand that there will be an extended procurement/order timeline and intend to sign and move forward on the MOU very shortly.

Planning efforts are underway with the State of New Hampshire, FuelMaker Corporation and Engine Manufacturers to provide immediate increased CNG refueling capacity until their station comes on line.